

UKRAINE

USA Continues To Support HIV/AIDS Fight in Ukraine

On October 15 Ambassador Mark Dybul, Global HIV/AIDS Coordinator for the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), visited the Kyiv City AIDS Center where he discussed HIV/AIDS services provided by the Center, including methadone-based medication assisted therapy for injection drug users.



Ambassador Mark Dybul responding to a reporter's question.

The United States Government is supporting the delivery of medication assisted therapy services for male and female HIV-infected injection drug users at the Kyiv AIDS Center through its SUNRISE Project, implemented by the International HIV/AIDS Alliance. The activity builds on the significant support provided by the Global Fund to assist the Government of Ukraine to scale up medication assisted therapy services.

Ambassador Dybul commended the Government of Ukraine for the leadership it has demonstrated to date in supporting implementation of this vital program, and emphasized the importance of partnership and cooperation with the Ministry of Health, Global Fund and HIV/AIDS partners and stakeholders to strengthen Ukraine's national AIDS response and contain HIV transmission by bringing key services to most at risk populations.

Since 2001, USAID has been supporting Ukraine in fighting HIV/AIDS. Currently more than 170,000 Ukrainians who are at high risk of HIV infection in the most affected regions receive prevention services and information thanks to the «SUNRISE» Program that is supported by a budget of \$10 million implemented by the "International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Ukraine."

USAID Awarded a New Civil Society Project

USAID has awarded a \$10 million five-year *Strengthening Civil Society Project in Ukraine* to Pact, Inc. The program is effective as of October 1, 2008. The main purpose of this new program is to help consolidate democratic governance in Ukraine by strengthening and developing a more vibrant civil society and more robust NGOs. The project has four major objectives: 1) NGOs better represent citizen interests and drive reform agenda through more effective advocacy, monitoring and activism; 2) the relevant legislative framework for civil society approaches European standards; 3) NGOs are transparently governed and capably managed; and 4) civil society organizations are more financially sustainable and less dependent on foreign donors.

Public-private Partnerships Receive Attention at Berdyansk LED Workshop

As corporate social responsibility gains popularity in Ukraine, local governments more and more often look at collaboration with private companies in their cities as an important economic development tool.



Kirill Yermishin, DTEK Social Responsibility Manager: "We have very substantially progressed from a model predominantly of big business interaction with communities, which can be called 'willy-nilly chaotic charity,' to something more systemic."

Speakers at the LED Berdyansk workshop held on September 17-19 noted the importance, and cited examples, of successful interaction with companies.

Alchevsk Economy, Market Relations and Investment Department Deputy Head Halyna Bannikova and Alchevsk Development Fund Board Chairwoman Olha Kovkina explained how the fund, established by the Industrial Union of Donbas (IUD), helps Alchevsk to implement its economic development strategy.

LED Project Chief of Party Howard Ockman singled out three challenges that municipal offices of economic development should confront: the need to supplement city economic development resources through corporate social responsibility and other donor funding; the need to scale up development through regional strategic planning; and the need to stay focused on competitiveness through innovation and integration of business and science.

Eastern Europe Foundation Executive Director Viktor Lyakh spoke on how cities can employ additional resources for local development, particularly corporate social responsibility (CSR)

of businesses and funds of charitable organizations.

CSR was also the topic of a report by Kirill Yermishin, Social Responsibility Manager of the Donbas Fuel and Energy Company (DTEK), which sponsors strategic planning efforts guided by the LED project in seven cities and two raions in the oblasts of Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk and Luhansk. Since last year, the company has entered into social partnership agreements with each of those cities, Mr. Yermishin said.

A presentation by Ihor Matyukha, Mayor of Koryukivka, Chernihiv Oblast, highlighted long-term collaboration with the Koryukivka Technical Paper Factory, which has intensified since the city adopted its Strategic Plan as a result of support from USAID.

USAID's Capital Markets Project Expert Explains Pension Unit Calculation

USAID's Capital Markets Project (CMP) Pension Expert Gary Hendricks took part in a seminar for pension fund industry professionals on valuing the accounts of participants in non-state pension funds (NPFs). A unified accounting and reporting system is essential for a transparent and reliable evaluation of non-state pension funds, said Hendricks. He explained the advantages of the "net pension contribution unit method" for calculating pension fund value and rates of return.



USAID/CMP Pension Expert Gary Hendricks coaches participants.

Hendricks pointed out that moving to a unified and transparent calculation model is an

absolute must for Ukraine if it wants to push forward its pension reform: "If we don't do this, then there is no way we can entrust non-state pension funds with pillar II contributions," he said.

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BELARUS

Alternative Care Development in Belarus

According to the Ministry of Education, over 30,000 orphans and children in Belarus live outside of parental care. About 80% of them are 'social orphans' - children whose parents are unable or unwilling to care for them. Despite efforts by the government to place them in foster care, over 50% of these children still reside in government-run boarding schools and orphanages. USAID's *Supporting Orphans and Vulnerable Children* project is developing alternative care models in the country to increase the number of children brought up by their natural families or in a family-like environment.

Until recently in Chausy, a small town in the western part of Belarus with a population of slightly over 25,000 people, nearly all orphaned children were routinely placed in the local orphanage, and very few of them had the chance to be adopted or taken in by a foster family. Today, as a result of the project, the situation is quite different.

In July 2007, the Chausy State Child Protection Service with support from USAID launched a public awareness campaign on alternative care and a training program for foster and adoptive families. The goal of the campaign was to raise citizen motivation to adopt orphaned children or to consider foster care. The main slogan of the campaign was - "You too can take an orphan in your family." Local media, state services and private

business companies provided broad support to the campaign.

The comprehensive approach proved to be very effective – the number of inquiries from citizens about adoption and foster care has increased six folds since the campaign began. Encouraged, many families have decided to enroll into a training program. Thirty-seven parents have completed the training, and 15 of them became adoptive or foster parents.



A poster encourages adopting orphaned children.

As an overall result of the project's work in Chausy, the number of orphaned children in alternative care has increased by 75%, and there is a waiting list of families who have completed the training and are willing to take a child left without parental care. Today in Chausy the children whose parents have been denied parental rights are no longer placed in state institutions, they have a choice: adoption or foster family care.

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